

REMARKS

Claims 1-8 are pending in the application. Claims 1-8 have been cancelled herein.

Drawings

Substitute formal Figures 3-6 have been included herewith. Also attached are marked-up figures 3-6 which show the changes in red ink. In the substituted Figures blocks 300, 210, and 230 have been added to clarify the descriptions in the specification of applicant's invention. Applicant's original disclosure describes the functions of these elements however the figures previously did not provide a specific box in the drawings. These drawings changes thus clarify the description in the specification by now showing in the Figures the previously described functions. No new matter is added.

In view of this clarification it is respectfully requested the Drawing Objection in item 1 of the Office Action be withdrawn.

With regard to the Drawing Objections in items 2 and 3 of the Office Action, the specification has been amended to correct typographical errors and to clarify the specific table references. The reference to 2-i has been corrected to refer to 2-1. The table references have been changed in the specification to clarify which tables are being referred to. It is respectfully submitted these rejections should now be withdrawn.

Specification

A substitute Abstract is included to correct the items objected to in the Office Action. It is respectfully requested the objection be withdrawn.

The specification has been amended to clarify the points objected to in the Office Action. Additionally the specification has been amended to correct grammatical and typographical errors in several places.

No new matter is added.

Claims

Claims 1-8 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, for failing to comply with the enablement requirement.

Claims 1-8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C 102(e) as being anticipated by Sekine et al. (US6,466,576).

Claims 1-8 have been cancelled herein obviating these rejections.

New claims 9-18 have been added. These claims are based on Figs. 2-7 and the respective descriptions in the specification. No new matter is entered.

New claims 9-18 are different from and would not be anticipated by the previously cited references for at least the following reasons:

Sekine et al. propose a protection method for a physical failure of a line. But, as far as the disclosed structure is concerned, there is no description in the reference regarding the demultiplexer of an ATM switch system of a node located at a starting point of the protection domain ..., an ATM switch system at a node detecting a failure on the working channel transmits an AIS cell in a down stream direction toward an ATM switch system of a node located at a terminal point of the protection domain, the ATM switch system of the node located at the terminal point detects the AIS cell, and transfers it to the controller, the controller orders the ATM switch system to switch over from the working channel, to the protection channel, and the

multiplexer allows only ATM cells identified as the connection for APS processing to be transmitted.

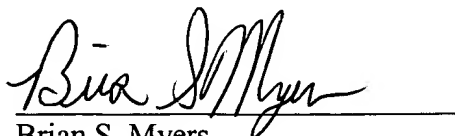
Thus applicant's claimed invention includes a structure for alarm cell transmission and provides the switching over to the protection channel and the multiplexer allows only ATM cells identified as the connection for APS processing to be transmitted.

The dependent claims also include the feature of using an APS group, by which a high speed switching is possible between $1 \rightarrow 1$, $1 \rightarrow n$ or $n \rightarrow 1$. This feature is not suggested by the reference. Applicant's dependent claims include the switching of $n \rightarrow n$, according to the bandwidth of the working and protection (connection channels)

In view of the remarks set forth above, this application is in condition for allowance which action is respectfully requested. However, if for any reason the Examiner should consider this application not to be in condition for allowance, the Examiner is respectfully requested to telephone the undersigned attorney at the number listed below prior to issuing a further Action.

Any fee due with this paper may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-1290.

Respectfully submitted,


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BSM:fd

APPROVED
 GBS
 2/30/04

FIG. 5

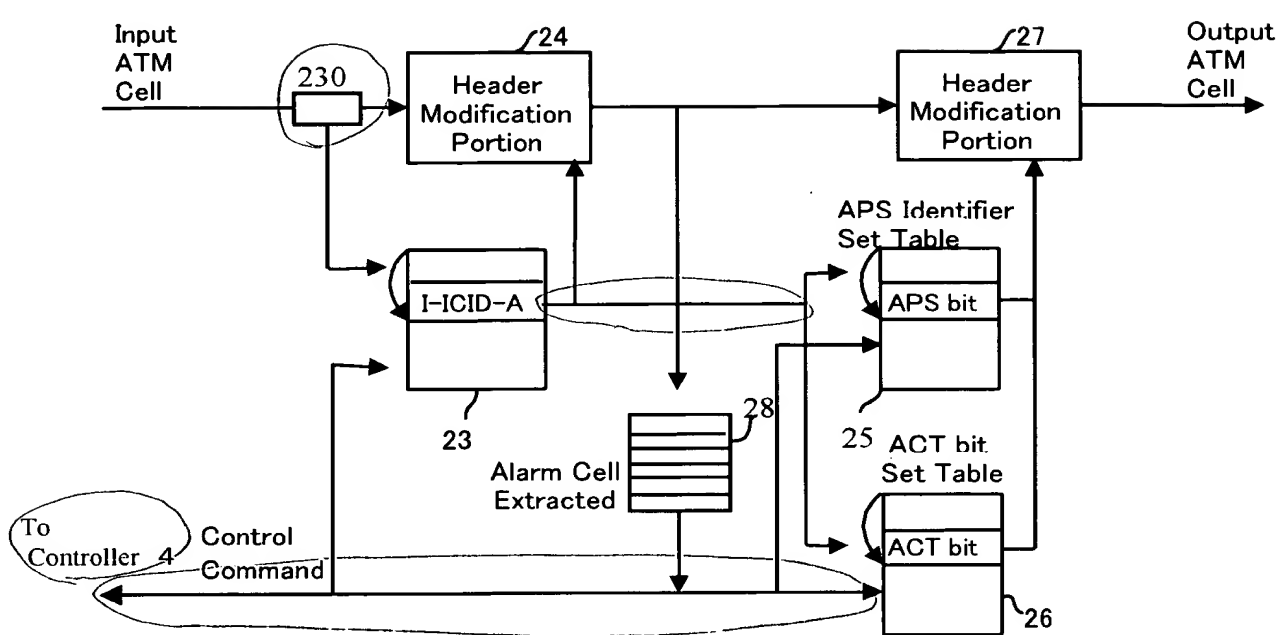
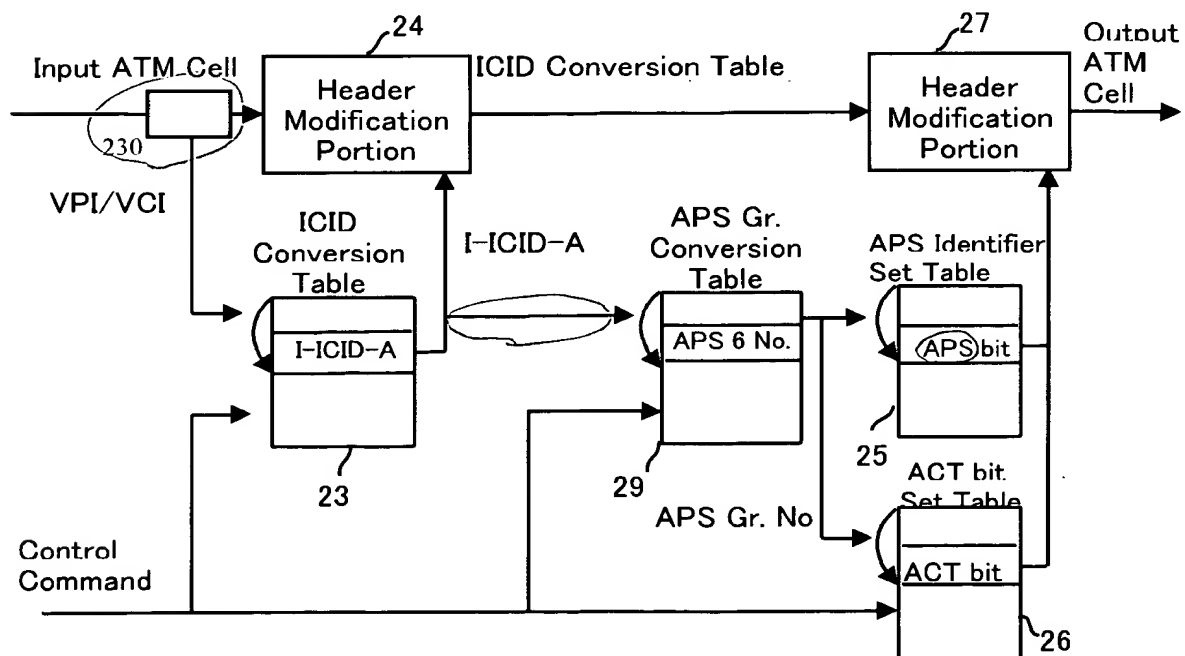


FIG. 6



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FIG. 3

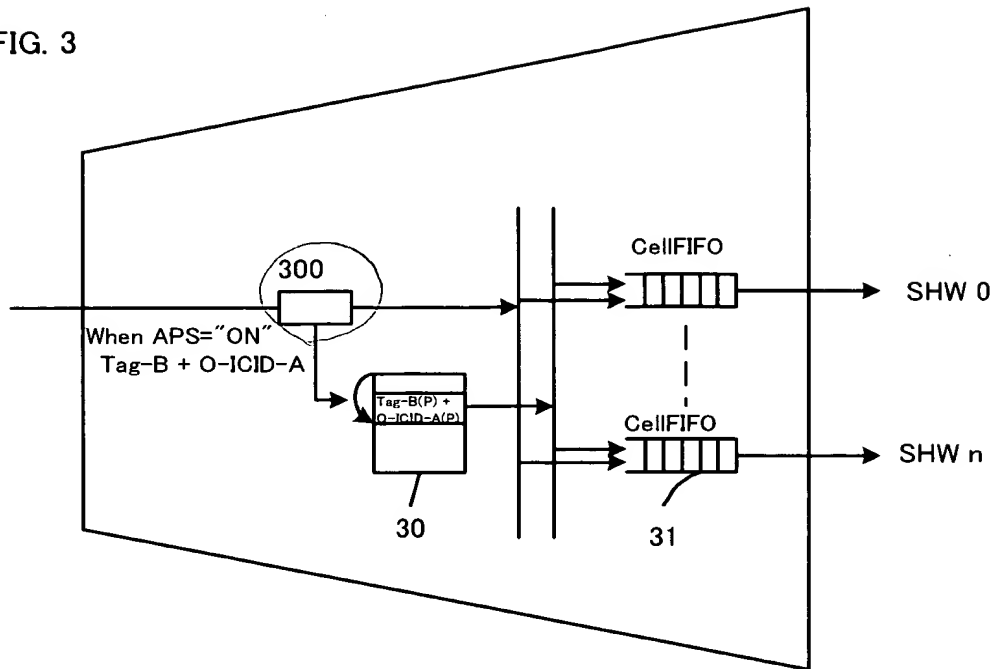


FIG. 4

